

The American Observer

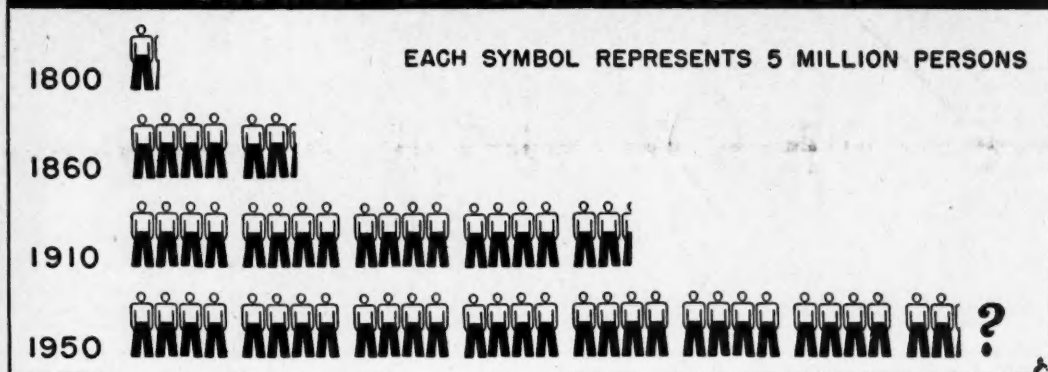
A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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GROWTH OF U.S. POPULATION



U. S. Is Counting Its People

This Year's Census, Officially Taken as a Basis for Fixing Each State's Representation in Congress, Will Show Many Facts About How We Live

THE U. S. census now in progress is the largest operation of its kind ever undertaken. During April, census takers are gathering facts on every person in the United States. In towns and cities, the job may be completed in two weeks, but in most rural areas it cannot be finished so quickly. After the facts are gathered, they are to be compiled and sorted in two huge federal buildings near Washington, D. C. Then a detailed, up-to-date picture of the American people will be available.

The census is taken every 10 years. It becomes a larger project each time, because our population is constantly growing. This year's count is expected to show that the United States, with its territories and possessions, has about 154 million people.

The primary purpose of the census is to determine how many people each state contains. This information is necessary, because the number of congressmen that a state may send to the U. S. House of Representatives depends upon its population. The Constitution therefore declares that our people must be counted at 10-year intervals.

Today, census figures are used for many purposes besides that of apportioning U. S. representatives among the states. The gathering and compiling of such figures has become a big job, planned in advance as carefully as a military operation, and carried out with the aid of marvelous electrical machines.

The first count, taken in 1790, was an extremely simple affair by comparison. Only about 600 men were employed as enumerators, or counters. Each of these men, using plain sheets of paper, jotted down a few items of information about every person in his area. After making the rounds, he posted his lists in a public place where the people might check to be sure that nobody had been overlooked.

Eventually, the lists were sent to the President of the United States. He

turned them over to a group of clerks who made the final computations. Complete results of the census were published in a 56-page booklet.

At present, the census is the responsibility of a permanent government agency—the Bureau of the Census—within the Department of Commerce. To gather information this year, the bureau is employing 140,000 enumerators, plus nearly 9,000 leaders and supervisors. To add up the facts collected by this field force, thousands of office employees will be required. Even though these workers use high-speed tabulating machines, it will be late in 1952 before all the statistics gathered in the 1950 census can be published.

Each American family is to be visited by one of the 140,000 enumerators. The enumerator carries a card

that identifies him, or her, as a government employee who is entitled to receive census information. He is also supplied with printed sheets, each about the size of a big newspaper page, on which to record the facts obtained.

There are several questions that the enumerators must ask concerning every person in the United States. These cover name, age, sex, race, whether he is married, where he was born, and whether he is a U. S. citizen. Anyone 14 years of age or over must give some details about his job, if he has one. The number of persons in each household is to be shown, as well as the locality in which each family lives.

There are facts to be determined about each dwelling—whether it is a house, an apartment, a trailer, or some
(Concluded on page 2)

Our Ties With Latin America

Pan American Day Will Focus Attention on Problems of Western Hemisphere

ON April 14 the United States and the lands of Central and South America will observe Pan American Day. The day is set aside annually to foster a spirit of friendship and cooperation among the nations of the Western Hemisphere.

Although this event has been observed since 1890, the spirit which it is intended to promote has not always been evident. For many years the United States was regarded with distrust throughout the lands of Latin America. Since we were the strongest and wealthiest of the American nations, our motives in the lands to the south of us were often under suspicion.

On several occasions, U. S. troops were sent to certain Caribbean countries to keep order and protect American property. These expeditions contributed to our unpopularity in Latin America. We were often referred to as the "Colossus of the North."

A happier era came along in the period prior to World War II. Under the Good Neighbor Policy, we pledged not to interfere in the national affairs of other countries in the Americas. Relations improved between the U. S. and the lands to the south, and this era of good feeling continued through World War II. At that time most Latin American countries joined the Allies in the war against the Axis.

After the war, however, the relationship between Latin America and the
(Concluded on page 6)

A Vocation or an Avocation

By Walter E. Myer



Walter E. Myer

GOOD cooking, the skilful, tasty and attractive preparation of food for the table, is an art which has developed with the progress of civilization. It contributes immeasurably to health and pleasure. It means so much to everyone that it deserves all the effort and attention that can be given to it.

As a matter of fact it has received increasing attention during recent times. About 80 years ago the teaching of cooking was introduced into a few American schools. The movement spread until today a place has been found for it in thousands of high schools.

There are also plenty of opportunities for cooking instruction outside school. Magazines and newspapers furnish tested menus and recipes. Companies producing food materials advertise cooking methods. Reliable bulletins supplying expert and practical cooking advice are published and distributed by the United States Bureau of Home Economics.

Despite these and many other aids, the culinary art is seriously neglected. Most restaurants and many homes serve food not only lacking in variety, but often of inferior quality. There is plenty of room for improvement in the practice of cooking.

When this subject is introduced, most young men feel that it is something only for the young women to think about, but men as well as women should be interested. There are many reasons why men and boys should learn to cook well, as many already do.

The young man who is a good cook adds to the pleasure when groups get together. He is popular at parties, just as the one is who plays a piano or some other musical instrument. He finds that it is fun to have an unusual accomplishment—one that he and others enjoy. The good cook, whether young man or woman, is likely to grow in popularity.

The young man who cooks well is

useful about the home, especially if there is illness in the family. This is an important matter later in life when he has a family of his own. In earlier days a man could perform his duties fairly well without a knowledge of cooking. But now many women are employed outside the home, and there is no more reason that they should be wholly responsible for meals than that the men should be.

Here is something else to think about: Cooking in hotels and restaurants is a man's job. There are few women chefs or cooks in public places. A person who develops excellence in cooking has an attractive opportunity to find a well-paid job in this field where the need is great and where good workmen are scarce.

Cooking can be a pleasurable gateway to vocational or avocational enjoyment.

U. S. Census

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other kind of home; whether it has hot and cold running water, and other such facts. Farmers are to furnish information in considerable detail—the size of each farm, whether the operator owns or rents it, what it produces, and so on.

In order to save time and money, the government is merely "taking a sample" with some of its questions; that is, it obtains certain items of information about every fifth person and every fifth dwelling. Questions on the individual's education and income, and about heating and lighting equipment in the home, are in this group. Some detailed questions, involving employment and other subjects, will be asked of one person in every 30.

Government officials explain that good estimates can be made about the entire American population on the basis of these samplings. For instance, a fifth of the people of the nation—selected at random—are to be asked how much schooling they have had. It is safe to assume that the percentage of college graduates will be practically the same in this sample as in the population as a whole.

Everyone is required by law to answer the questions which the enumerator asks him, just as he is required to pay taxes and—occasionally—to serve on juries. Some people are reluctant to give information on all the subjects that the census covers; but the government says it is taking precautions to see that no one is harmed by furnishing such information.

In the first place, it has warned all enumerators that they will be severely punished—by fine or even imprisonment—if they "gossip" about the facts they gather. Second, it explains that the Census Bureau never publishes facts about specific individuals. Census reports deal only in figures. For example, the government tells approximately how many American adults have had no schooling, but it never publishes any of their names.

If, at some future date, an individual needs to obtain information from the Census Bureau about himself, he can do so. Old census records can sometimes be used for proving a person's citizenship, and for similar purposes. But no one else, not even an agent of the Federal Bureau of In-



MACHINES LIKE THESE will speed the tabulation of material gathered in the 1950 census, but even so it will take two years to complete the counting job and publish all results of the census. Facts about each individual, as collected by the census takers, are punched onto cards by the small machine at the right. The cards are run through the larger machine, which sorts and tallies the material and prints the results. Other "wonder" devices will help in compiling census results.

vestigation, can get facts from the Census Bureau about any individual or family.

Even so, there has been much criticism of certain questions—particularly those dealing with incomes. Many individuals feel that such questions constitute unnecessary government "snooping" into private affairs.

After the census facts are collected, forwarded to headquarters, and compiled, a vast amount of statistics on the U. S. population will become available. Although this information will be of great interest and value, it is not expected to contain any big surprises. The Census Bureau, in addition to making a complete count once every 10 years, is at work all the time making special surveys and estimates about our country's population. On the basis of such estimates, we can get a fairly good idea of what the official 1950 census figures will reveal.

In the first place, they will probably show that the 48 states, together with the District of Columbia, have a population of about 151 million. Territories and island possessions probably have well over 3 million inhabitants. Thus the total number of people under

the U. S. flag is roughly 154 million.

In 1940, the 48 states plus D. C. had 131½ million people. Territories and possessions, which then included the now-independent Philippine Islands, brought the total up to 150½ million. (The Philippines' 1940 population was 16½ million.) Our first census, taken in 1790, revealed a total U. S. population of only about 4 million.

The 1950 count can be expected to show tremendous gains for some of our states. People have been moving to the West and Southwest in large numbers, so that Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, and Arizona are about half again as heavily populated as they were in 1940. In terms of population, California ranked fifth among all the states of the Union 10 years ago. This year she may find herself in second place.

Michigan, Florida, and Utah will chalk up sizable gains, too, and so will the District of Columbia. Increases for these areas range from about 20 to 30 per cent over the 1940 figures. Most states will register smaller gains, and a few may show slight losses. For continental United States as a whole, there is a gain of about 15 per cent.

The new census figures will show that more and more of our people are living in towns and cities. In 1940, about 23 per cent of the population lived on farms. It is estimated that farmers and their families now make up slightly under 19 per cent of our whole population. This is in sharp contrast with the conditions that existed in early times, when farm people made up most of the nation.

Census Bureau officials believe that women now outnumber men in the United States by about a million. Until recently, men have had a majority.

There will be important information on increases within various age groups. People under 20 make up about the same fraction of our entire population that they did in 1940, although their numbers have risen from 45½ million to 52 million in continental United States.

The nation has about 10 million more people between the ages of 20 and 64 than it had in 1940, but this group has grown less rapidly than the population as a whole.

People of 65 and over have made the greatest increase. There are about 28 per cent more of them now than in 1940. Medical improvements enable more people than ever before to reach the ages of 65 and above.

The 1950 census will show that there are about 7 million more families now than there were in 1940. It will show that incomes have risen sharply during the past 10 years. It will tell which parts of the country have had the largest average increases in earnings, and which have had the smallest. It will indicate that there are several million more houses, apartments, and other dwellings in use now than there were in 1940, and that the homes of today are better equipped. It will show where new dwellings are needed.

The present census is to cost the government about 85 million dollars. Officials say that it is well worth the money, because there are literally countless uses for the statistics that it will uncover. School authorities, for instance, will study carefully the information on how many children have been born during the last few years.

If present estimates are correct, this information will warn our schools to expect 23 per cent more first-graders in 1955 than they have now. In later years, of course, this increase will make itself felt in the higher grades. Details supplied by the census will help officials to make plans on what new school facilities are needed.

Businessmen and manufacturers will be able to make extensive use of the census figures. Those who deal in farm machinery will study the agricultural information to see how many tractors and other pieces of equipment they should be able to sell.

Manufacturers of household goods will want to know how many families there are, and which parts of the country have the most money to spend. Those who make refrigerators will be interested in knowing whether the average family is becoming larger or smaller. If families are getting larger, there might be an increasing demand for large-size refrigerators. Companies that make toys will want to know how many boys and girls there are to be in the various age groups during the next several years. Pages of similar examples could be given.



A TYPICAL SCENE just now. Census enumerators are interviewing people all over the United States—farmers in the field, the city-dweller in his home.

Science News

A British automobile company states that it will have its jet-propelled car—the Rover—ready for mass production in three years. The car is powered by two kerosene-fed jet turbines, has no gearshifts—except for reverse—has no radiator, and requires very little oil. It goes about 10 miles on a gallon of kerosene.

The Rover looks like other British sport coupes, except that it has three openings on each side for taking in air, and two square openings in the back for the exhaust fumes.

The company wants to eliminate some of the undesirable features of the car—its noise and the unpleasant fumes—before offering it to the public.

★ ★ ★

British atomic scientists have been able to change the color of diamonds by "baking" them in atomic piles. They have changed the stones to red, blue, yellow, and green—a process which does not make the diamonds radioactive or lessen their brilliance. Now, the scientists are trying to find out just how long the stones must be "cooked" to make them a certain color.

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An interesting new exhibit will be shown at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City sometime this month. It is a plaster copy of a huge stone head which was found in a Mexican jungle by a National Geographic-Smithsonian Institution expedition.

The original head—believed to have been carved about 2,000 years ago—weighs 30 tons, so is too heavy to be moved to a museum. Experts say that the stone used in the massive head had to be carried more than 60 miles over mountainous territory to its present location in the jungle.

The plaster model has been painted



THIS ANCIENT HEAD is one of the largest ever cut from stone

blue to resemble the lava rock used in the great stone head. Like its original, the plaster cast is 9 feet high, 6 feet wide, and 20 feet around.

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Next month, a scientific expedition representing six nations will start work on Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic. A group of explorers from Canada, the United States, Great Britain, Finland, Norway, and Switzerland will try to determine whether the glaciers and icecaps on the island are retreating as are such masses elsewhere—particularly those in Norway and Alaska. They believe that the retreat of the glaciers may be worldwide, indicating a trend toward weather that is generally warmer than it has been in the past.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



ADA KLEINMAN and Avigdor Ziv of Israel spent several months in the United States

Two Israeli Students

They Tried to Learn as Much as Possible About U. S. Life So They Can Help Their Country's Development

AVIGDOR ZIV, a young man of 18 from the new nation of Israel, has much to be serious about. Avigdor left high school in his senior year to fight with his country's army against the Arabs. He was wounded in street fighting at Haifa, Israel's capital.

After the war, Avigdor finished school. Now he is helping to train other young people to build and operate new settlements in his new and growing country. So, on a three-month visit to the United States with other youths from countries in the Middle East and in southeast Asia, Avigdor was eager to learn what we are doing. He wanted to collect ideas that might be used in Israel.

"I'm proud of my country's achievements during the last two years," Avigdor said in an interview with THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. "We ended the war with our enemies. Our population has doubled (it is over a million). We are developing agriculture and industry, and improving transportation. I am proud that my country is succeeding in carrying out its plan—to become an independent nation for Jewish people."

To help Israel on its way, Avigdor feels that more attention should be given to building good citizens. "I think that our country should teach citizenship," he said. "I would like my country to use the U. S. methods to create a more interesting school life by establishing student governments and by developing more social activities and school spirit."

"In actual learning," he continued, "I believe we are ahead of you. Our studies are compact, and we learn things more naturally."

"The students in Israel are more interested in national problems and world affairs than are Americans. They are better informed, and their interest drives them to search for more information by themselves, outside of school. Everybody reads the newspapers and almost every family has a radio set. Both radio and newspapers are used as mediums for education."

Ada Kleinman, 18, was an Israeli visitor to our country with Avigdor. She was most interested in our methods of farming, since she lives in a cooperative farm settlement—so interested in fact, that a group of high school students in Somerville, New

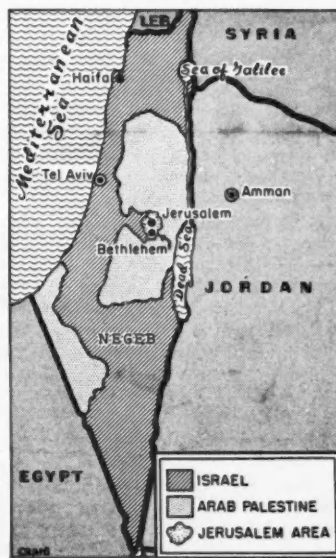
Jersey, is raising funds to buy her a tractor.

As to our country, both students were impressed by our hospitality and admired our ability to build and create projects like TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority). Our means of communication, they thought, are highly developed, and can serve as an example to Israel and to other nations.

But Avigdor disliked the rush of the people of New York, and the admiration they have for what he called "His Majesty, the Dollar."

The Republic of Israel was established on May 14, 1948, at the expiration of the mandate, granted by the League of Nations, under which Great Britain controlled Palestine. Israel, about half the size of Maryland, is made up of three sections of Palestine—the fourth part having gone to Arab peoples.

At its very beginning as a nation, Israel became involved in war with Arab armies. A truce finally was established in 1949 with the two chief enemies, Egypt and Jordan. However, there have been numerous disputes since, and Israel does not yet consider herself free from the danger of new conflict.



THE STATE of Israel and Arab areas in old Palestine

Student Projects

From Three Schools

THIS year, for the third time, students of Wichita High School East, Wichita, Kansas, have held a "Fun Night" to raise funds to help schools in foreign countries. Their project began when they realized that hundreds upon hundreds of students across the seas did not "even know what it is like to own a pencil."

Fun Night brings many attractions to the school and regular admissions are charged. All proceeds go for the overseas work. A faculty basketball game, a "Rogue's Gallery" with baby pictures of faculty members, bingo games, short motion pictures, displays of hobbies, and other "concessions"—inexpensive to set up and enjoyed by all—are featured.

During the first year of the project, Wichita High East sent \$500 to each of two Finnish schools, \$500 to a Dutch school, and \$750 to one in France. During the next year \$250 went to each of the Finnish schools, \$250 to two Austrian institutions, and \$750 to the school in France. Since conditions in Europe have improved, half of the \$1,400 raised on Fun Night this year will be used in the United States and half will go to the schools abroad.

Miss Esther Longenecker is secretary of the Foreign Schools Committee at Wichita High East. She reports that many friendships have been started with students in Europe through the project.

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IN 1947, a Teen Theatre was organized in Falls Church, Virginia, to raise funds for a local teen club. Plays and minstrel shows were given by the theatre, and bazaars and bake sales were held. Garage owners in the town gave the theatre its support by permitting the teen-agers to work in their shops during an entire day. Profits made on that day were turned over to the group.

As the project gained momentum, a building formerly used by the Army as a mess hall was secured and the land on which it stood was rented to the club by a local man for a dollar a year. Merchants, civic groups, business firms, veterans' organizations, labor unions, and interested individuals gave time, money, and equipment to convert the mess hall into a recreation center.

Today the canteen, called the "Neet Nac," is a reality. It is operated by an elected council of nine teen-agers under the guidance of a director hired by the city.

Tanya Bruskin and James Beard of the Falls Church High School reported on this project.

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THE Spanish Club of William Chrisman High School, Independence, Missouri, is planning a trip to Mexico to help members of the club improve their knowledge of the Spanish language, according to a report from Virginia Russell. Money for the trip is being raised by the club through such projects as a variety program, a square dance, and bake sales.

The students hope not only to learn more than they now know about Spanish, but also to extend their understanding of foreign peoples by becoming acquainted with some of the Mexicans.

The Story of the Week

NOTICE

In accordance with its usual practice, *The American Observer* will not publish an issue on the Monday which coincides with the Easter holiday. Consequently no paper will be published this year on April 10. The next issue will appear on April 17.

Foreign Visitor

President Gabriel Gonzalez Videla of Chile is coming to the United States for a formal state visit. He will arrive in Washington April 12 and remain in the country for 15 to 18 days. During his stay in the U. S., he will see, in addition to the capital, New York, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and some parts of Texas. He will also visit the Tennessee Valley Authority, in which he has expressed a great interest.

Chile's chief executive has been in office since November, 1946. Though he was elected president on a somewhat radical platform, he has proved to be a firm opponent of the Communists, whom he has accused of plotting to overthrow his government. During the last two or three years, the country has been riddled with strikes and riots, some of which were apparently begun specifically for the purpose of harassing the Videla regime.

Videla's trip to the United States is being made at the invitation of President Truman. While he is in Washington, the Chilean leader will spend one night at the Blair-Lee House, Mr. Truman's official residence



GABRIEL GONZALEZ VIDELA, President of Chile, arrives next week for a visit in the United States.

while the White House is being repaired.

Accompanying President Videla on his visit to this country will be his wife and one of his two daughters.

National Guard

The National Guard this summer will stage the greatest field exercises it has ever held in peacetime. According to Guard officials, about 300,000 men will leave their jobs for 15 days and live in camps under wartime conditions. During their stay in the field, the Guardsmen will undergo training in military tactics and the use of the latest weapons.

Under the law authorizing the establishment of the National Guard, members of the organization attend



THE UNITED STATES NAVY is experimenting with this craft to see whether it is practical to use submarines as oil tankers. During World War II, surface tankers were a favorite target for the enemy. By transporting oil under water, the Navy may reduce risk of loss.

an average of a drill a week throughout the year, with the exception of about a month during the summer. Guard units receive much of their training from regular Army personnel, who try to teach the same principles that govern the operations of their own battalions and regiments.

The activities of the National Guard come under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense. The guard's primary purpose is to keep in readiness a body of men capable of going into action with the regular Army immediately, if the nation becomes involved in a war. Another purpose is to quell disturbances and riots during peacetime and to give aid to communities struck by disasters like tornadoes and floods.

State Department Dispute

During recent weeks, the newspapers have been full of charges and denials concerning Communist activity within the U.S. Department of State. A Senate subcommittee has been investigating the situation. It is headed by Senator Millard Tydings, Democrat of Maryland. One of its members, Senator Joseph McCarthy, Republican of Wisconsin, has led the attacks on the "Communists and their sympathizers" in the State Department.

When Senator McCarthy first made his charges, he insisted that the "loyalty" records which the State Department keeps on its employees be turned over to the subcommittee. He said that these records would prove his accusations to be true.

Senator Tydings and other Democrats on the committee were inclined to feel that McCarthy did not have any real evidence to support his charges, but Tydings nevertheless asked President Truman to have the State Department turn over its "loyalty" records to the committee. As we go to press, Mr. Truman is considering this request, and he probably will make a decision before this paper reaches its readers.

One of the big points which Senator McCarthy has been making in this controversy is that the "Communists and their sympathizers" in the State Department have been largely responsible for the Communist victory in

China. He contends that certain officials in the Far East Division of the department used their influence to withdraw U.S. support from the Chinese Nationalist Government, headed by Chiang Kai-shek. Senator McCarthy argues that this same "ring" of disloyal officials, unless ousted from their high posts, will turn all of Asia over to the Communists.

Opponents of Senator McCarthy reply as follows: "The 'hands off' policy which our country adopted toward China was based in large part on the report and recommendations of General George C. Marshall, who made an extended study of that country in 1945 and 1946. He was very critical of Chiang Kai-shek's government, and his views influenced President Truman and State Department officials. Surely no one would accuse General Marshall of being a Communist."

What the outcome of this dispute will be remains to be seen. Some observers predict that until Secretary of State Acheson and certain of his subordinates resign, there will not be proper unity behind our country's foreign policy. It is claimed that Mr. Acheson's close friendship with Alger Hiss, who was convicted of perjury in saying he had not engaged in Communist activities while working for the State Department, has shaken confidence in the conduct of our foreign policy.

Other observers say that the present attacks against the State Department can be proved to be entirely false, and that when this happens the whole controversy will die down. According to this point of view, the Republicans on the Senate subcommittee are merely trying to "discredit" the Truman administration.

"Golden Twenties"

RKO-Radio and the March of Time have cooperated in producing a highly interesting film about the 1920's. Called, appropriately enough, "The Golden Twenties," the picture contains actual scenes from the lives of Rudolph Valentino, Charles Lindbergh, Thomas A. Edison, Houdini, Paderewski, and other famous people of that era. A group of well-known commentators serve as narrators for the film, describing the kind of world

that existed in what is known as the "Jazz Age."

The story that holds the picture together involves a student who wants to learn about the fabulous 1920's. On the advice of an older person, he reads a book depicting conditions during that period. As he turns the pages, scenes from the "Jazz Age" are flashed on the screen and the student, as well as the audience, sees the kind of life that was lived at the time.

FBI Expansion?

Congress is expected to approve practically unanimously the FBI's request for an increase of around four million dollars in the 1950-51 budget. According to J. Edgar Hoover, its director, the FBI is performing more tasks today than at any time since the war. At the same time, the number of employees of the agency has remained about what it was four or five years ago.

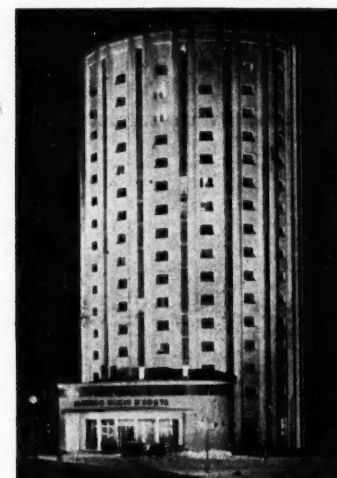
If the FBI's request for additional funds is approved by the legislators, 700 new persons, including 325 special agents, will be employed by the organization. They will be used to help the FBI investigate the loyalty of federal employees and prospective employees. They will also take part in the campaign to detect spies and other foreign agents.

Under the proposed budget for the FBI, Hoover's salary would be increased from \$16,000 to \$20,000.

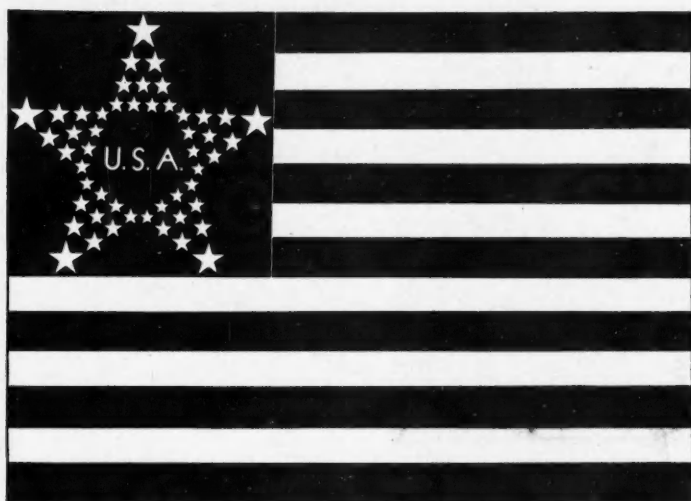
City of Rangoon

The population of Rangoon, the capital of Burma, is reported to have increased by almost 100 per cent in the last few years. According to American and British observers who have visited Burma recently, the civil warfare that has beset that country for several years has resulted in the destruction of many towns and villages in the rural areas. Consequently, as many as 500,000 persons have left their homes and gone to Rangoon to live.

The huge increase in the city's population has created a number of difficult problems for Rangoon's officials. For one thing, many people have inadequate housing. Others have no jobs



THIS HOTEL, along with others, is helping Italy toward economic recovery by drawing tourists from other countries. It's the Duchi D'Aosta hotel in the winter resort of Sestriere. Built like a circular tower, it has 184 rooms.



PROPOSED FLAG. Chester Allen of Chicago suggests that this flag be used if Alaska and Hawaii are admitted to the Union. The present arrangement of red and white stripes, representing the 13 original states, would be retained, but the white stars on the blue field would be arranged as shown.

and have resorted to begging. Still others have acquired some kind of home, but are living under the most unsanitary conditions.

Despite recent efforts to wipe out the rebel forces throughout the country, the warfare in Burma continues. Communist bands conduct frequent operations in the north and other sections of the nation. Other groups that disagree with the policies of the present government harass loyal troops from hideouts in the mountainous areas.

European Trucking

UN economic experts have drawn up a plan to increase commercial truck traffic throughout Europe. At present, commercial vehicles pay special charges when they cross from one country to another. They are also subject to other restrictions, all of which are designed to reduce the amount of cargo carried by foreign trucking concerns.

According to the UN proposal, the countries of the entire continent would be asked to eliminate most, if not all, of the fees they now impose on outside commercial vehicles. They would also be asked to agree on uniform rates for hauling shipments over certain routes and to spend more money than they are doing for improving the roads over which international truck traffic now moves. If such an agreement is reached, it will help European trade.

Interesting Broadcast

"America's Town Meeting of the Air" will devote its weekly program tomorrow night to a discussion of a question that is being hotly debated in Congress. The question is "Should We Cut Marshall Plan Aid Now?"

The main speaker on the program will be Paul G. Hoffman, the head of the Economic Cooperation Administration. After a brief discussion of economic conditions in western Europe, Hoffman will answer questions put to him by two noted correspondents.

Philip Warden, of the *Chicago Tribune*, will interrogate the ECA official from the viewpoint of those who want western Europe to get less than the three billion dollars which Presi-

dent Truman has requested for the next bookkeeping year. Blair Moody, of the *Detroit News*, will ask questions designed to support the case for the three billion dollar request.

Chinese Famine

According to reports from Hong Kong and other Far Eastern cities, China is undergoing its worst famine in 72 years. Businessmen who have recently traveled through the country say that about 30 million people—or about 7 per cent of the total population—are starving. The Chinese government itself admits that at least 20 million persons are on the verge of perishing for lack of food.

As a result of the famine in China, government leaders throughout the world are watching to see what the country's Communist regime will do to provide food for needy areas and to assure that a similar situation will not develop next year. They are also wondering what effect the present famine will have on the feelings of the Chinese people. According to

some diplomats, local revolts may break out though there is little likelihood of any widespread insurrection.

In a normal year, China produces large quantities of rice, wheat and barley and most of the people manage to get enough to eat. This year, because of floods in some areas and a severe drought in others, the output of these three crops is expected to decline by as much as 25 per cent.

Eisenhower's Views

Observers are wondering whether General Dwight Eisenhower's recent remarks on the state of our armed forces will have any important effect on the Congressional debate over the amount of money that the Defense Department has requested for the bookkeeping year 1950-51. General Omar Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, believes that the recommended figures are adequate for present purposes, but General Eisenhower is among those who take issue with him.

In a recent address at Columbia University, of which he is now president, Eisenhower said that our military establishment has dwindled in size and power to an extent that gives him "deep concern." The general did not indicate exactly where he thought we are militarily weak, but he did say that, so long as there was no hope for a permanent peace or total world disarmament, the United States must remain as strong as possible.

The final decision on this issue rests, of course, with Congress.

—By DAVID BEILES.

Pronunciations

(In most cases, Latin American words are pronounced in their Anglicized forms.)

Asuncion—ah-sōn'syōn (y as in yes)
Buenos Aires—bwā'nōs i'rās
Caracas—kah-rah'kahs
Gabriel Gonzalez Videla—gah-brē-ēl' gone-sah'lēz vē-dē'lah
Haifa—hi'fah
Montevideo—mōn'tē-vidē'ō
Paramaribo—pā'rah-mār'i-bō
Rio de Janeiro—rē'ō dā zhah-nā'rō

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Definition: Propaganda is the other side's case put so convincingly that it annoys you.

"Many birds sing without opening their bills," says a naturalist. Maybe we'd feel more like singing if we didn't open ours.

Month after month a firm sent its bill to a customer, and finally received this reply:

"Dear Sir: Once a month I put all my bills on the table, pick at random and pay five. If I receive any more reminders from you, you won't get a place in next month's shuffle."

"I hope you paid your taxes with a smile last month."
"I wanted to, but the man insisted on cash."

The mathematics professor retired from teaching and moved to a cottage by the sea which he called After Math.

People who think that the art of conversation is dead merely have to sit in a movie audience during a picture.

"Doctor," inquired the anxious patient, "how long after I take the anesthetic will it be before I know anything?"
"My dear sir, aren't you expecting too much from the anesthetic?"

An elevator man grew weary of repeated requests for the time. So he put a clock in the elevator. Now people constantly ask, "Is your clock right?"



"Facial expression doesn't necessarily reflect opinion, you know."

Study Guide

U. S. Census

1. How often is the U. S. census taken? For what purpose does the Constitution require that it be taken?
2. Compare the task of census-taking in 1790 with the present one.
3. List some of the facts—about each person, each home, and each farm—that the enumerators are to obtain this month.
4. Why is the government merely "taking a sample" with some of its questions?
5. What precautions are taken to see that no one is harmed by furnishing census information to the enumerators?
6. Give some examples of how the census findings can be used.
7. List several states that have made great gains in population during the last 10 years.

Discussion

1. Do you or do you not agree with critics who say that some of the census questions constitute unnecessary government "snooping" into private affairs? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Give some possible uses, other than those mentioned in the article, for census information.

Latin America

1. What is the purpose of the observance to be held on April 14?
2. During the last half century what changes have taken place in the attitude of Latin American lands toward the U.S.A.?
3. How has our government tried to strengthen ties between our nation and Latin American countries in the last six months?
4. Describe briefly the serious trade problem confronting most of the Latin American countries.
5. What might be some of the results of a serious economic depression in Latin America?
6. In what way is Latin America plagued by political problems?

Discussion

1. What steps do you think the nations of Latin America should take to assure themselves of stable, democratic governments in the future? Explain.
2. Do you think that the U.S.A. should act to help Latin America solve its trade problem? If so, in what way do you think we could make our aid most effective?

Miscellaneous

1. What are two of the duties of the Federal Bureau of Investigation?
2. Why has the population of the city of Rangoon increased to so great an extent in the last few years?
3. Explain the main provisions of the proposed European trucking agreement.
4. Besides rice, what are two of the most important Chinese food crops?
5. Give two of the chief tasks of the National Guard.
6. What does General Eisenhower think of the present state of our armed forces?
7. What charges has Senator McCarthy made concerning our State Department? How do opponents of McCarthy reply to his charges?

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Latin America and the U. S.

(Concluded from page 1)

United States threatened to deteriorate. The attention of our leaders was centered on postwar problems at home and in Europe and Asia. Some officials of Latin American countries charged that South America had become the "forgotten continent" so far as the United States was concerned.

In the last six months there have been positive efforts to strengthen the ties between our own country and Latin American lands. For example, the bureau in our State Department which has charge of dealing with those nations has recently been reorganized along lines that are expected to make it much more effective.

Without fanfare or much publicity, two important conferences have taken place in recent months to discuss the problems of the Latin American countries as they affect relations with the United States. The first of these was held in Havana in January. It was attended by U. S. ministers and ambassadors to the Caribbean countries.

Rio Conference

The second conference was held last month in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Our ambassadors in 10 South American countries discussed the economic and political situations in that part of the world with representatives of our State Department.

To bring about closer cooperation among the nations of this Hemisphere the Organization of American States was formed in 1948. There are 21 republics—including the United States—that belong to this organization, which is the outgrowth of the Pan American Union. Our own country is the northernmost one of the group. (Canada is not a member.)

Our fellow members extend southward from the Rio Grande for a distance of approximately 7,000 miles. The combined population of these lands is about 136 million—or less people than live in the United States alone. Yet the total land area of all the Latin American countries is about three times that of the U.S.A.

In discussing this vast region, one should remember that each country has its own problems, many of them quite different from those of its neighbors. Nonetheless there are certain big problems which are common to almost all of Latin America, and

with which our government is primarily concerned.

One of the biggest troubles faced by these countries at this time is connected with trade. Most Latin American lands are confronted with the same type of dollar shortage that has been bothering Britain and many other European nations. They are not selling as much to the United States as they are buying from us. Thus, their trade has been dropping steadily, since they are not earning enough dollars to buy the machinery and other goods they need.

The trade situation has several dangers. If the decline continues, it could bring a serious economic depression to Latin America. That, in turn, would force these nations to cut down still more on their purchases of our goods, thereby hurting U.S. industry and agriculture. Our sales to Latin America have already dropped by about 25 per cent since 1947 when they reached an all-time high.

An even more serious result of a widespread economic collapse in Latin America might be the rise of communism. At present the Communists are not very numerous in that part of the world, but after the war they became active in a number of countries, particularly Brazil, Cuba and Chile. They are now outlawed in Brazil and are being closely watched in other lands. Nonetheless, their presence in certain countries could lead to trouble, particularly if an economic slump should take place. One of the principal objectives of the Communists is to arouse antagonism against the United States.

A number of proposals have been made to remedy the economic situation in Latin America. Some people feel that the United States should make larger loans than in the past to our southern neighbors. Our government would like to encourage private investors to lend their money to stimulate business in Latin America, but the unstable political situation in a number of these lands makes American businessmen reluctant to risk their money there.

The United States has been sending technical experts to Latin American nations for the purpose of advising them about such matters as sanitation, health, crop improvement, and educa-



LATIN AMERICA includes the independent countries south of the Rio Grande

tion. President Truman would like to expand this program of technical assistance, not only to Latin America but to other "underdeveloped" areas of the world. Under his so-called "Point Four" program for promoting democracy and combating communism, the President calls upon the United States to "show" the poorer countries how to modernize, and to help them to do it. Congress is considering his plan.

Meanwhile, an attempt is being made to attract more U. S. vacationists to Latin America. More tourists from our country would bring increased supplies of dollars to these lands. At present only about eight per cent of the money spent by U.S. citizens for travel goes to Latin America. It is hoped to boost that figure to 14 per cent.

Authorities think it will take a combination of all these proposals to improve Latin America's financial situation and stave off the threat of a serious economic depression.

Political as well as economic problems plague Latin America. During the past few years there has been a wave of revolutions throughout the area. In a number of countries, elected governments have been overthrown in violation of all democratic principles. One-man dictatorships or governments run by small military groups have been set up.

At present the countries under the rule of dictators or military cliques include Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Paraguay, Nicaragua, Salvador, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. There has been unrest in a number of other countries.

Behind these frequent upheavals lies a long record of social and economic conditions not conducive to the growth of democracy. While there are large and beautiful cities in Latin America and also well-to-do, cultured

people, the general standard of living is low. The average yearly income of Latin Americans is about \$100 as compared to about \$1400 for citizens of the U.S.A. The average life expectancy is between 30 and 35 years—about half of what it is in this country. A large proportion of Latin Americans—perhaps as many as 75 per cent—are illiterate.

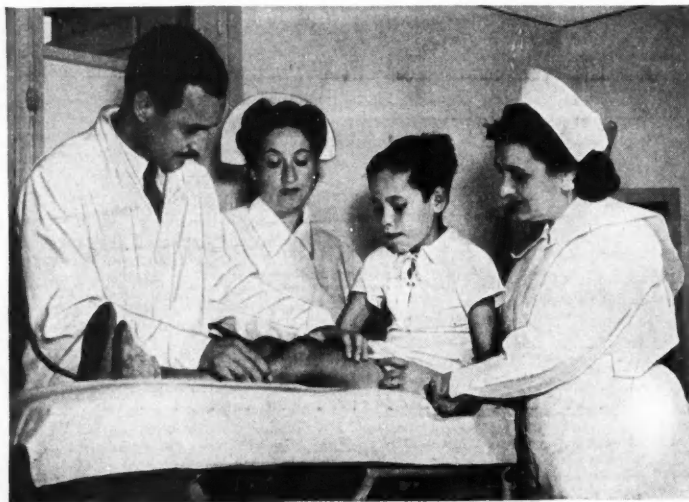
Encouraging Progress

Despite these weaknesses, the Latin American countries have made considerable progress during recent years. The people are not as dependent on agriculture as they once were, and the basis is being laid for further industrialization. Rich resources in a number of these lands hold much promise for the future.

Another encouraging factor is the strong action being taken by the Organization of American States to keep conditions in Latin America on a stable basis. In fact, the Council of this agency is meeting today—April 3rd—in Washington, D.C., to act upon a report recently turned in by a five-nation committee which investigated disturbances and widespread unrest in the Caribbean area.

The committee found that Cuba, Guatemala, and the Dominican Republic had all been involved in plots and conspiracies of one kind or another. It recommended that the Organization of American States take specific steps to keep peace in the countries bordering the Caribbean.

What action the Council may take cannot be predicted, but the decision of the international agency to investigate the Caribbean situation promptly and efficiently has met with widespread approval. If the Organization can continue to operate in this manner, it can do a great deal toward promoting political order and justice in this Hemisphere.



DOCTORS in a government-supported clinic at Montevideo, Uruguay, are busy men. Here one is shown treating a young patient.

Readers Say—

I disagree with the statement made by Gerald Johnson that American youth lacks the spirit that made this country great. To my way of thinking, this nation's younger generation is enthusiastic about the future and is determined to do all it can to carry on our great traditions. As a matter of fact, I think that when the young people of today grow up, they will do more for the United States than have some previous generations of American youth.

RICHARD WASHUT,
Monarch, Wyoming

★ ★ ★

I believe that Congress can do at least three things to solve the farm surplus problem. First of all, it can authorize the giving of surplus food to needy foreign countries, as has been suggested by many people recently. Second, it can impose restrictions on the amount of potatoes and other crops that farmers grow. Third, it can require farmers to limit the area they use for the production of their commodities.

EVANGELINE OLSEN,
Climax, Minnesota

★ ★ ★

Antigo High School conducted an unusually large number of activities in observance of Brotherhood Week this year. In addition to holding panel discussions on the subject of brotherhood, students attended movies devoted to the theme of tolerance, wrote reviews of books on the problem, and made posters stressing the value of inter-group understanding.

In a discussion of the situation in our own community, the students agreed that there is very little discrimination here principally because of the absence of any large minority groups. Mexican laborers are hired by farmers of the area during potato harvesting but they are treated like everybody else.

BETTY DOBBS,
Antigo, Wisconsin

★ ★ ★

In an article in your February 27 issue, a ranger at Yellowstone National Park was quoted as saying that the famous geyser, Old Faithful, erupted "1,174 times during 1949, or an average of once every 62.3 minutes." In my opinion, our ranger friend needs a lesson in "goes-into." If Old Faithful erupted



1,174 times last year, it erupted about 3.2 times every day, or about once every 450 minutes—which is a little different from once every 62.3 minutes.

FRANK DEFELICE,
Lexington, Massachusetts

(Editor's note: The mistake Mr. Defelice points out was a mistake in editing. The note should have said that 1,174 eruptions of Old Faithful were recorded during the visiting season of 1949 or one every 62.3 minutes.)

★ ★ ★

(Correspondence from our readers or foreign students should be addressed to Letter Column, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)



THIS MEXICAN GIRL is very fond of her pet goat

South of Rio Grande

Latin American Nations Contrast Sharply with Our Country in Climate, Natural Plant Life, and Customs

LATIN America begins where the Rio Grande runs between Texas and Mexico, and beyond that river lies a world vastly different from the United States. The sky is bluer than it is in most parts of our country, the natural plant life is not the same, many of the animals are different, and most of the people have a life that is foreign to our own.

Latin America, stretching to Tierra del Fuego at the tip of South America and including islands of the Caribbean Sea, is three times the size of the United States. It occupies about half of the entire Western Hemisphere. Brazil alone is larger than our 48 states. "Little" Uruguay is larger than England. The coast of Chile is as long as the Atlantic Ocean is wide between England and the North American coast.

A large part of Latin America is situated in tropical or semi-tropical zones. The climate, especially in the lowlands, is generally hot and moist, but together with the rich soil of the area it gives Latin America a tremendous capacity for agricultural production.

Useful Vegetables

One writer has said that the countries to our south have "more useful vegetable products than any other equal area on the globe." Potatoes—both white and sweet, tomatoes, red peppers, maize, tobacco, cotton, rubber, and many medicinal herbs are native to Latin America. And there are other agricultural products. Wheat and beef come from the broad plains of Argentina. Chile's great herds of sheep provide meat and wool.

In addition, Latin America is rich in minerals. The Caribbean region is one of the great oil-producing basins of the world. From South America come tin, copper, gold, silver, nitrates, and other minerals of value. The continent also has iron and some coal—two minerals that are the bases of modern industrial production.

Several factors have, however, prevented Latin America from developing its vast wealth to the fullest extent. The climate in many parts of the region—and particularly in areas with

the greatest resources—is hot and tends to sap the energy of people who live there. The climate also causes dense jungles to cover the lowlands.

Mountains, too, have been an obstacle to progress. The high range that comes down through western Canada and the United States continues on to the southernmost tip of South America. It has formed an almost impassable barrier to travel between East and West. And people have found it hard to live in the high altitudes, where the climate is cold and the air contains little oxygen.

Progress Is Made

Such handicaps are being overcome, though. The airplane has made travel direct and easy. Scientists are studying ways to make it possible for people to live and work in the jungles. Native governments are struggling with plans to develop their lands.

The people of Latin America offer as great a contrast as do the terrain and resources of their land. Descendants of four groups make up the population. There are the native Indians, the Spaniards and Portuguese, the Negroes, and the northern European stock that has come to the region during recent times.

Contrasts arising from differences in wealth are even more striking than those that arise from racial background. The upper classes, living chiefly in the cities though they own much of the land, have an extremely easy and happy existence. They are well-educated, they travel widely, and they live much the same way as well-to-do people live in our country.

The poorer classes—the groups that work in the mines, in the fields, or do menial tasks in the city—often manage to eke out only a miserable living. Relatively few of them are able to read and write. A "middle class" was almost unknown in Latin America until fairly recently—and it is still small.

Latin America, with its varied peoples and its vast natural wealth, has been called the "land of the twentieth century." It is one of the great regions of the world that still remain undeveloped, but it is making steady progress forward.

Monthly Test

NOTE TO TEACHERS: This test covers the issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER dated March 6, 13, 20, and 27. The answer key appears in the April 3rd issue of THE CIVIC LEADER. Scoring: If grades are to be calculated on a percentage basis, we suggest that a deduction of 3 points be made for each wrong or omitted answer.

DIRECTIONS TO STUDENTS: In each of the following items, select the correct answer and write its letter on your answer sheet.

1. Our government's present defense policy is based mainly on the belief that (a) large U. S. military forces are unnecessary because Russia does not want war; (b) the program of military assistance to the nations of western Europe will definitely prevent attack upon the U. S.; (c) strong U. S. military forces may prevent war; (d) a war is certain to occur within the next two years.

2. The struggle for political control of the Saar is intense chiefly because of that area's (a) importance as a transportation and communications center; (b) rich resources of coal and iron; (c) huge atomic energy laboratories; (d) strategic location behind the "iron curtain."

3. Which one of the following items is not included in President Truman's "Fair Deal" program? (a) Compulsory national health insurance; (b) federal financial aid to schools; (c) stronger government controls over labor unions; (d) federal spending to encourage housing for low-income and middle-income families.

4. The future of the present government in Great Britain is uncertain because (a) the Conservative Party rejected the leadership of Winston Churchill; (b) the Labor Party won only a minority of seats in the House of Commons in the recent election; (c) the British people voted overwhelmingly against plans to nationalize industry; (d) the two major parties have almost equal strength in the House of Commons.

5. Labor is strongly opposed to the Taft-Hartley Act because that law provides for (a) compulsory arbitration of labor disputes; (b) government operation of plants in which there are labor disputes; (c) court orders which may force employees in a labor dispute to stay on the job; (d) investigating boards which can recommend settlements in labor disputes.

6. In a recent article on Russian-United States relations, George Kennan, a high State Department official, presents arguments to support his belief that (a) Russian leaders do not want to risk war with the U. S.; (b) disarmament by the U. S. is the surest road to world peace; (c) war between Russia and the U. S. is inevitable; (d) reorganization of the UN or formation of an Atlantic Union is necessary to insure peace.

7. Plans for control over the Saar Basin have resulted in disagreement between (a) France and Germany; (b) Germany and Luxemburg; (c) Russia and Yugoslavia; (d) Russia and the U. S.

8. Which one of the following observations about American political parties today is most nearly accurate? (a) All members of the Republican Party agree that the "Fair Deal" program is bad; (b) all members of the Democratic Party agree that the "Fair Deal" program is good; (c) a majority of both the Democratic and Republican parties approves the "Fair Deal" program; (d) the memberships of both parties are in disagreement on the merits of certain features of the "Fair Deal" program.

9. Britain's two leading political parties disagree most sharply on (a) taxes and government ownership of industry; (b) the welfare program; (c) cooperation with other nations of western Europe; (d) plans for national defense.

10. The fact that members of Congress and other groups are considering new machinery to keep world peace indicates that most of the American people (a) are willing to join a world government immediately; (b) will not feel safe until there is effective international control of atomic weapons; (c) feel that the UN is meeting with success; (d) believe the European Recovery Program has contributed to world-wide insecurity.

(Concluded on next page)

Monthly Test

(Concluded from page 7)

11. The chief issue that split the Democratic Party in 1948 was (a) communism; (b) civil rights; (c) inflation; (d) foreign policy.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the word, name, or phrase that best completes the question.

12. In the solution of labor disputes, a _____ helps the disputing parties to decide for themselves but does not impose a binding decision.

13. In the solution of labor disputes, an _____ renders a decision which the disputing parties must obey.

14. Under Britain's parliamentary government, the leader of the strongest party in the House of Commons becomes the _____.

15. The Democrats and Republicans who favor a less active government are generally referred to as _____.

16. The Democrats and Republicans who believe that the government should continue most of its present activities are generally referred to as _____.

Identify the following persons. Choose the correct description from the list below. Write the letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the person to whom it applies.

17. Estes Kefauver

18. Konrad Adenauer

19. Clement Attlee

20. James F. Byrnes

21. Stewart Alsop

22. Louis Johnson

A. Prime Minister of western Germany.

B. Former Supreme Court Justice now running for governorship of South Carolina.

C. French Foreign Minister.

D. Secretary of Defense.

E. Tennessee senator proposing establishment of Atlantic Union.

F. Newspaper columnist who believes U. S. defenses are inadequate.

G. Prime Minister of Great Britain.

After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the letter of the word or phrase that most closely defines the word in italics.

23. He tried to *assuage* their fears. (a) understand; (b) ease or relieve; (c) make use of; (d) stir up or increase.

24. If you *appraise* something, you (a) discard it; (b) judge its value; (c) purchase it; (d) repair it.

25. Did they *condone* those offenses? (a) excuse or overlook; (b) commit; (c) study or investigate; (d) actively encourage.

26. They tried to *disparage* his achievements. (a) equal; (b) describe; (c) belittle; (d) learn more about.

27. They exercised *pernicious* influence. (a) persuasive; (b) consistent; (c) overpowering; (d) harmful.

28. It is argued that military strength *deters* aggression. (a) encourages; (b) results from; (c) causes; (d) prevents.

Washington Sesquicentennial.—After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write the letter preceding the correct answer in the list below.

29. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are on display here.

30. This is the central agency for handling our foreign affairs.

31. The Gettysburg and Second Inaugural addresses are carved in the walls of this structure.

32. Headquarters of the Department of Defense are located here.

33. This structure was begun in 1848 but remained unfinished until 1884.

- A. Lincoln Memorial
- B. Washington Monument
- C. Library of Congress
- D. The Capitol
- E. Department of State
- F. The Pentagon
- G. Pan American Union

Careers for Tomorrow - - As a Mechanic

MECANICS are the maintenance men of the machine world. They work on engines and motors of all sizes and types—from those in vacuum cleaners to the big turbines of Grand Coulee Dam.

A young man going into this kind of work should have all the ingredients included in the term "mechanical ability." He should have a natural feeling for motors and an almost instinctive understanding of what makes them work. He should be able to use his hands both in making small adjustments and in fitting large pieces of equipment into place.

Besides having these natural characteristics, a young mechanic must acquire a thorough knowledge of the particular motors and engines with which he is to work. This he can do partly through vocational courses in high school or in a technical school. But the most important part of his education will be that which he gets from experience—either through a formal apprenticeship or by working informally as a helper.

In some localities, the unions and employers have arranged a four-year apprenticeship for prospective mechanics. The training is covered by a contract signed by the apprentice and his employer. It provides for on-the-job training and for classroom work. The apprentice receives a small wage while he learns. Young men interested in this training should talk to union representatives or to the personnel directors of industrial firms in their communities.

Where no formal apprenticeship is

available, prospective mechanics receive their training through working side-by-side with older men. They start as helpers and greasers and go on to do repair jobs.

In high school, young men who want to become mechanics should study gen-

are operating efficiently, or he may repair broken machines.

One of the most highly skilled persons in this general field is the airplane mechanic. This worker must pass special tests and be rated by the Civil Aeronautics Authority in order to get a job. Information on requirements for this rating can be obtained from the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. In writing, ask for Part 24 of the Civil Air Regulations.

Stationary engineers make up another group of highly skilled mechanics. They take care of the big equipment in power plants, and of heating systems and air-conditioning units in large buildings.

Mechanics who repair the engines of ships are called marine engineers. Like the aviation mechanics, they must be licensed. Information about this licensing can be obtained from the Coast Guard, Washington 25, D. C.

Diesel mechanics work on Diesel engines. While these engines differ from the ordinary gasoline combustion engine, a general mechanic can shift rather easily to the Diesel field. Automobile mechanics, of course, work on the gasoline combustion engines.

Wages for mechanics vary. Auto mechanics make from 78 cents to \$2.05 an hour or from \$31 to \$82 for a 40-hour week. Diesel mechanics in large cities earn an average of \$1.60 an hour or \$64 for a 40-hour week. Stationary engineers have similar incomes.

Mechanics can advance to supervisory positions, or open their own shops to increase their incomes.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.



A STUDENT MECHANIC learns details about a cut-away propeller

eral science, physics, algebra, geometry, mechanical drawing, and similar subjects.

The details of jobs in this field depend upon the particular equipment with which a person works. In general, though, a mechanic examines motors and engines to find trouble, takes the devices apart, replaces worn or broken pieces, and reassembles the equipment. He may make routine checks to be sure that large engines, such as those used in power plants,

Historical Backgrounds - - U. S. Patents

A YOUNG clerk quit his job in the United States Patent Office 125 years ago. Thirty thousand patents had been issued at that time, in 1825, and the clerk felt just about everything had been invented that it was possible to make. He believed the Patent Office would be closed for lack of business. So, being ambitious, he set out to look for another career with a "more promising future."

The clerk, of course, was wrong about inventions. Cyrus McCormick's reaper, Elias Howe's sewing machine, Alexander Bell's telephone, Thomas Edison's phonograph, motion picture machines, automobile engines, the airplane, radio, and now television, are but a few of the many inventions since 1825. Patents for these discoveries and for improvements on them number in the thousands.

Whether the clerk who quit found a new and successful career is unknown. But the Patent Office has been going steadily on with its ever-expanding job. Patent Number 2,500,000 was issued just last month, on March 7. It was granted to a Pennsylvanian for a quick-acting mechanism to latch doors.

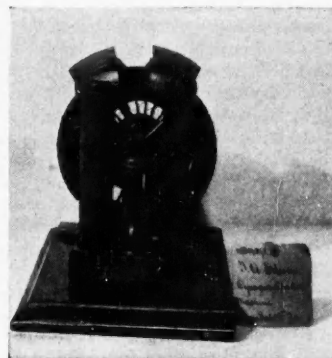
The Patent Office started work 160 years ago this month, on April 10, 1790. Only three patents were granted that first year, as compared with 20,000 or more that may be issued in 1950. Records of the first three patents have been lost, but it is known that Number 1 went to a Vermont man for his method of "making pot and pearl ashes," or potash.

The first patent probably was signed

by George Washington, as President, and by Thomas Jefferson, as Secretary of State—for it was customary in our early history for patents to bear the signature of these high officials. Patent Number 4 is the first for which the office has copies of records today. Granted January 29, 1791, it went to a Francis Bailey for an improvement on methods of making printing type.

The purpose of a patent is to protect an inventor. The patent holder has the exclusive right to make and sell his invention for 17 years, and no one can copy his device during that period.

The patent owner loses his rights at the end of 17 years. From then on, anyone may make a product without having to make any payment to the inventor. A patent may be extended by Congress but this is rarely done.



THOMAS EDISON obtained patents on this dynamo and on more than 2,500 other inventions.

Patent applications once came largely from individuals. A man worked out an idea in a shed or basement of his home, and then got it patented. Edison started out in this way. Abraham Lincoln got a patent in this manner, too—Number 6469, granted in 1849 for a device with which to get a boat off a sand bar.

Many individuals still work alone on inventions. But, in this era of big industry, more and more of the patents are issued to corporations. With large technical laboratories to develop a product and the money required to market it, the corporations hold an advantage in the search for new ideas.

Getting a patent is a lengthy process now. First, the inventor (or his lawyer) goes to the Patent Office's huge "search room." There he looks over the files of patents of the past. Usually the inventor finds that his idea is an old one—so he has to give up hopes of a patent and dreams of riches right there.

If, however, the idea seems to be really original, the inventor asks for a patent. He must present complete technical data on his contrivance and pay an application fee. The Patent Office gives him a serial number and its experts go over the request, comparing the plans with those of previous patents. Right now there are over 130,000 applications pending, some of them dating back two to five years. The inventor must wait his turn. If the experts decide his idea is a new one, he gets his patent.

—By THOMAS F. HAWKINS.